

Horse and Rider Allocation Guidance

Where possible, Centres will always try to accommodate requests related to riding specific horses or ponies. We hope an understanding of the different variables listed below will highlight how decisions are being made and help to provide an explanation for the reasons why.

Effective frequent checks upon the correct fit of saddles and associated equipment will support enhancing horse welfare in all ridden situations as horses may change in shape throughout the seasons. This alongside careful consideration of the below variables should factor into determining the appropriate allocations of riders to individual horses and ponies.

For the Horse/Pony:

- The breed or type
- Age
- Fitness and physique/condition/conformation
- Any predisposing health conditions
- Its current stage of education and training
- The type and duration of work, for example, if on an arena surface or hacking on varying terrain
- Intensity of the workload
- Frequency and variety of the differing activities when being ridden, for example lesson content/hacking/lunge lesson or lead rein etc
- Suitability (weight and size) of all equipment

For the Rider:

- Their level of riding experience
- Their height and physique
- How their postural and positional security may influence their balance when riding
- Their ability to remain in balance (relevant to the task) when riding
- Their level of correctional (postural) independence when riding

Further information and guidance is available on the BHS Website - <https://www.bhs.org.uk/go-riding/stable-mates/rider-size/>